



## Atelier '89 celebrates their first birthday with an exciting show by Nia Halima

American artist Nia Halima has been a visiting resident of Aruba for the past year, participating in a number of group art expositions and designing and creating costumes for productions such as the annual "Club di Movemento" recital. Her chosen medium for this show is textile art, and on Sunday afternoon, her first one-woman show opened at Elvis Lopez's Atelier '89 in Oranjestad.

Atelier '89 is a school that offers free one-month art programs for Aruban youth, taught by renowned artists from Aruba and around the world. Nia was the guest instructor for their "Summer Camp" and the results are on display along with her work.

One of the great assets of Atelier '89 is the intensity of the course, a month of daily sessions, but most importantly, the encouragement of self-expression and creativity without boundaries. Students are taught the techniques of various mediums, but are allowed complete freedom in realizing their own artistic vision. The results can be exhilarating, as is this latest collection of works by students ranging in age from eight years to fifty. Divided into two buildings separated by a courtyard, the latest collection includes three rooms with the exposition of works by Nia, and another with the completed pieces of the class. One room, dubbed "The Garden" is a collective work by all the students.

Nia is a graduate of the California College of the Arts where she specialized in glass art, and New York University where she earned a bachelor's degree in photography. During her past year in Aruba, she devoted herself to textile art, using a wide range of techniques in the creation of her work. Various materials, dyes, sewing techniques, and even the embroidery of poetry will be found in her gentle, pastel works. Small details draw the viewer closer, enticing one to study the little details, aside from the works as a whole, which makes them quite intriguing.

As mentioned, this is Nia's first one-woman show in Aruba, and likely final exposition, as she is departing for the States and then Europe to pursue her career. Do not miss this rare opportunity to enjoy the work of this internationally known artist, which will be on display and for sale at the Atelier '89, located at Dominicanessentraat #34 in Oranjestad every day except Saturday. Hours are from 11:00 AM until 8:00 PM, except Tuesday and Friday, when they close at 5:00 PM. For more information about the artist and Atelier '89 contact Elvis Lopez at 565-4613.